

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 1, 2020

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Insurance Department Releases Report on 2019 Health Insurance Costs

CONCORD, NH – The New Hampshire Insurance Department released the final version of its annual report on health insurance and cost drivers in the state. The report looks at 2019 data from insurance companies operating in the state.

“The information contained in this report is critical to understanding health insurance cost drivers in New Hampshire,” said Insurance Commissioner Chris Nicolopoulos. “The report can assist policymakers, insurance companies, and other stakeholders make informed decisions about our health insurance markets.”

Key findings include:

- 2019 premiums on the individual market dropped 11% from a high point in 2018 and ranked 15th lowest in the U.S.
- Average small group premiums increased just over 4% in 2019 in NH and were on par with the average small group premium in the U.S.
- Large group premiums, on average, increased by about 4% in 2019. NH large group premiums are lower than those in most other New England states, but higher than the U.S. average.
- Tufts Freedom Health Plan gained market share in the small group market again in 2019 with 21% of the market, up from 5% in 2017.
- Ambetter grew its market share in the individual market to 22% in 2019. This is up from 9% in 2018, the company’s first year offering plans in the NH market.
- Outpatient facility services continue to be the main contributor to claims trends, driving slightly more than half of the overall trend. These services include pharmaceuticals received in a professional setting.
- The pharmacy impact on claims trends continues to be driven primarily by specialty drugs though non-specialty generic and brand drugs have increased from prior years. The overall increase was just under 6%.

The [full report](#) is available on the Insurance Department’s website, along with an abbreviated [fact sheet](#) for quick reference and a new [interactive dashboard](#) to view trends over time.

State law requires the insurance commissioner to “hold an annual public hearing concerning premium rates in the health insurance market and the factors, including health care costs and cost trends that have contributed to rate increases during the prior year.”

A preliminary version of the report was presented and discussed during the Insurance Department’s Annual Hearing on Premiums and Claim Cost Drivers on October 23, 2020. This year’s hearing included a presentation by Paul B. Ginsburg, Ph.D., on *Moving Forward on Provider Alternative Payment Systems*.

Video recordings and other materials presented at the hearing are available on the Insurance Department's [website](#).

The New Hampshire Insurance Department Can Help

The New Hampshire Insurance Department's mission is to promote and protect the public good by ensuring the existence of a safe and competitive insurance marketplace through the development and enforcement of the insurance laws of the State of New Hampshire. Contact us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your insurance coverage at 1-800- 852-3416 or (603) 271-2261, or by email at consumerservices@ins.nh.gov. For more information, visit www.nh.gov/insurance.

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